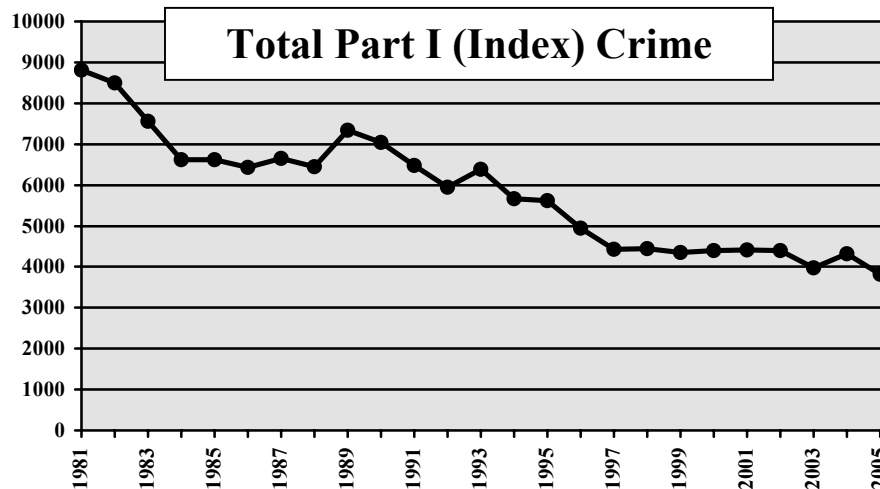
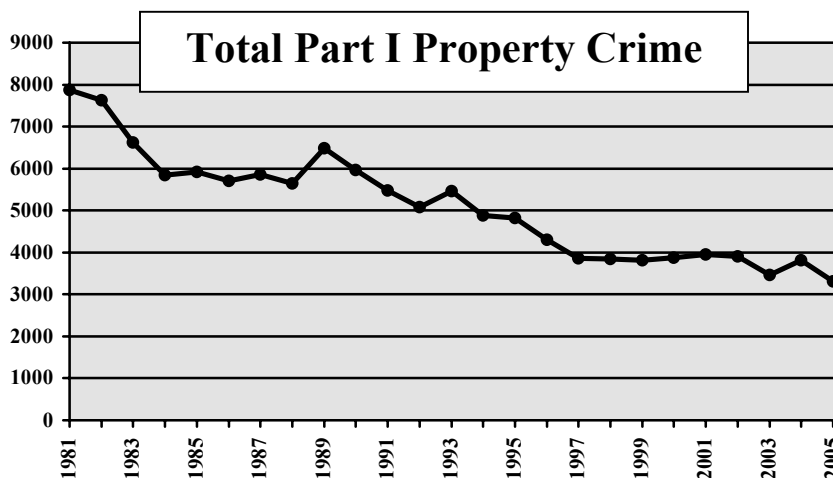


25-YEAR STATISTICAL TRENDS



Cambridge reported its lowest amount of crime in over 40 years in 2005. The total crime index has fallen 57% since 1981. Serious crime numbers have been on a steady decline since the late 1970s, with the exception of spikes at the turn of two decades. These spikes were caused by a sharp increase in property crimes in 1980 and a sharp increase in violent crimes in 1990. After 1997, the crime rate leveled off for approximately six years, until it dropped by 10% in 2003. A small increase in 2004 was then countered by an even greater decrease in 2005. Crime in Cambridge has not dropped this sharply since the mid-1990s.

Violent crime totals include totals for the crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and assault. Totals were fairly unsteady in the 1980s. The late years of the decade were marked by a great increase in incidents—reflective of the nation's epidemic of gang and drug violence combined with greater reporting of domestic assaults. Since 1990, violent crime totals have been steadily declining, but have been marked by small spikes every other year. This year only decreased by 3 incidents from 2004, indicating a leveling off of these incidents over the past five years. Despite this leveling off effect, Cambridge is still reporting its lowest overall amount of crime in over 40 years.



Property crime totals include burglary, larceny, and auto theft. Property crime usually accounts for 80-90% of the Part I total, which explains why the graph to the left mirrors the graph at the top so closely. Totals have fallen 58% since 1981 and 31% since 1995. Burglary and auto theft have produced enormous decreases over the past two decades, but larceny (common theft) has remained fairly steady. Again, after 1997, the crime rate leveled off for approximately six years, until it dropped by 12% in 2003. An increase in 2004 was followed by a decrease of 13% in 2005; consequently, making this year's totals, the lowest in over 40 years.